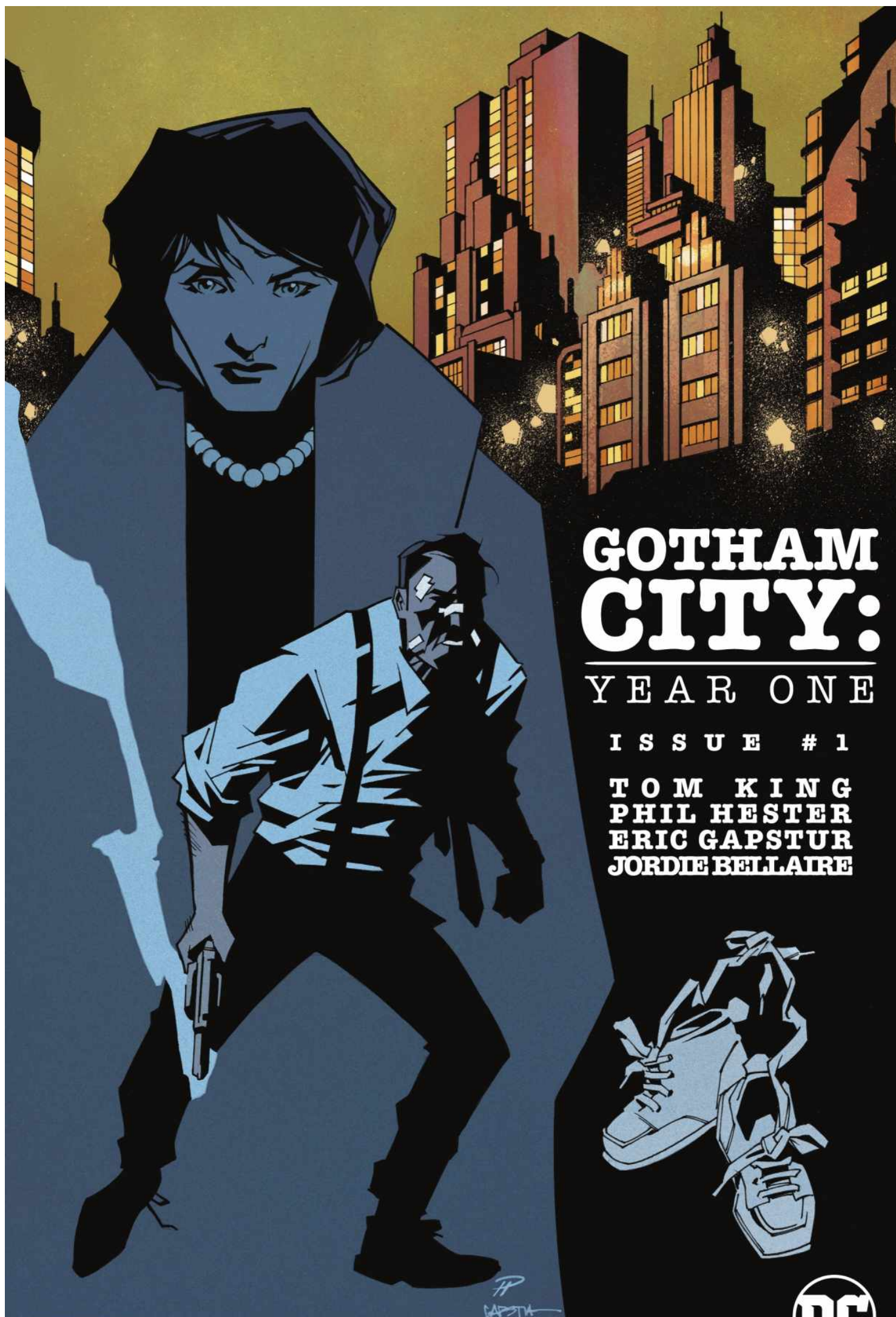




GOTHAM CITY:

YEAR ONE

ISSUE #1

TOM KING
PHIL HESTER
ERIC GAPSTUR
JORDIE BELLAIRE



The logo for Batman Incorporated, featuring the word "BATMAN" in a large, bold, black, stylized font with a white outline, and the word "INCORPORATED" in a smaller, bold, black, stylized font with a white outline, positioned below "BATMAN". The entire logo is set against a white background.

Written by
ED BRISSON

Art by
JOHN TIMMS

68 D.C.

Art by
JOHN TIMMS



5¢

All right.

The BLADE



This was March 12, 1961.
It wasn't quite lunch yet.
11:30, let's say.

Gotham, March 12, 1961.

WHERE IS THE PRINCESS OF GOTHAM?



I had a little time
and nothing to
do.

Rumors abound over the state of Helen Wayne, the little girl the city has dubbed "Gotham's Princess," daughter of Gotham's first citizen, millionaire tycoon Richard Bruce Wayne. The Princess has not been seen outside her home in more than a month, leading many to speculate as to why the Waynes have kept their new child away from her adoring public.

The most frequent claim whispered by a few but heard by all is that young Helen is in some way deformed, and that this unspecified deformity is a cause of shame to her father, who is well known to take pride in his blue-blooded heritage.

The Waynes' lawyer, Daniel Shapiro, has vociferously denied any such malady. "The girl is perfectly normal!" Shapiro said in a statement to reporters. "She is young. And she is beautiful. And she is the future of this great city!"

Taken over two months ago: the last known picture of Helen Wayne, with her parents in front of their North Gotham estate.

to Gotham," Mr. Shapiro continued. "His new industrial facility will convert the slums of the South



My first impression.
She was young, but not
that young. Confident,
but not that confident.
Polite, but not that
polite.

Just goes to show
how ignorant you
can be at the
start of things.

MR. BRADLEY,
I AM DEEPLY
SORRY, SIR, BUT I
AM IN A RUSH AND MUST
CUT TO IT. I HAVE BEEN
ASKED TO MAKE A
DELIVERY TO YOU,
OR A REQUEST
RATHER.

I HAVE
BEEN TOLD THAT
YOU ARE TO COURIER
THIS LETTER TO THE
HANDS OF MR. RICHARD
WAYNE, OF WHOM
I ASSUME YOU
HAVE HEARD.

IT IS
TO GO TO HIM
DIRECTLY, I AM TOLD,
AND NO OTHER. THERE
IS A HUNDRED DOLLARS
INCLUDED FOR YOUR
SERVICES IN THIS
MATTER. THANK
YOU.

THE NAME IS SUE, AND NO,
I DO NOT CARE TO SIT,
THANK YOU, SIR. LIKE I
SAID, I HAVE NO TIME FOR
LINGERING AND NEED
TO GO ON MY WAY.

I HAVE THE
LETTER FOR YOU HERE
AND THE MONEY. AND
YOU HAVE THE MESSAGE
TO BRING IT TO MR. WAYNE
UNOPENED, AND THAT WILL
CONCLUDE MY PART IN
THIS MATTER.

GOD
WILLING.

THERE. THIS MONEY IS
GENUINE AND IT IS FOR
YOU TO KEEP IN RETURN
FOR THESE DUTIES.

AND
THAT'S ALL
I HAVE. THANK
YOU.

I'M NOT SURE
I UNDERSTAND.

WHAT'S
IT ALL
ABOUT?

WOULD
YOU CARE TO
SIT DOWN,
MISS...?

I WOULDN'T
KNOW, SIR.



CHAPTER ONE

**Written by
Tom King**

**Pencils by
Phil Hester**

**Inks by
Eric Gapstur**

**Colors by
Jordie Bellaire**

**Letters by
Clayton Cowles**

**Main Cover by
Phil Hester,
Eric Gapstur
& Jordie Bellaire**

**Variant Cover by
Ryan Sook**

**1:25 Variant Cover by
David Marquez**

**Editor
Ben Abernathy**

This comic contains language of a racially offensive nature and may not be suitable for all age groups. Its inclusion is an intentional creative choice intended to highlight the fact that language of this type was frequently deployed in past decades and remains in use today, even as contexts evolve. Readers for whom such language is triggering or hurtful should be advised.



By that point,
I'd been a private
detective for over
a decade.

I'd worked
every angle.

I'd done divorces and marriages and missing persons
and paternity suits and this and that and in between.

I worked for the
D.A. on several
cases. I'd worked
for the defense
on several more.

I had a reputation
for honesty and
accomplishment
that I'd fought
hard to earn.



I was a
professional.

Not an
errand
boy.

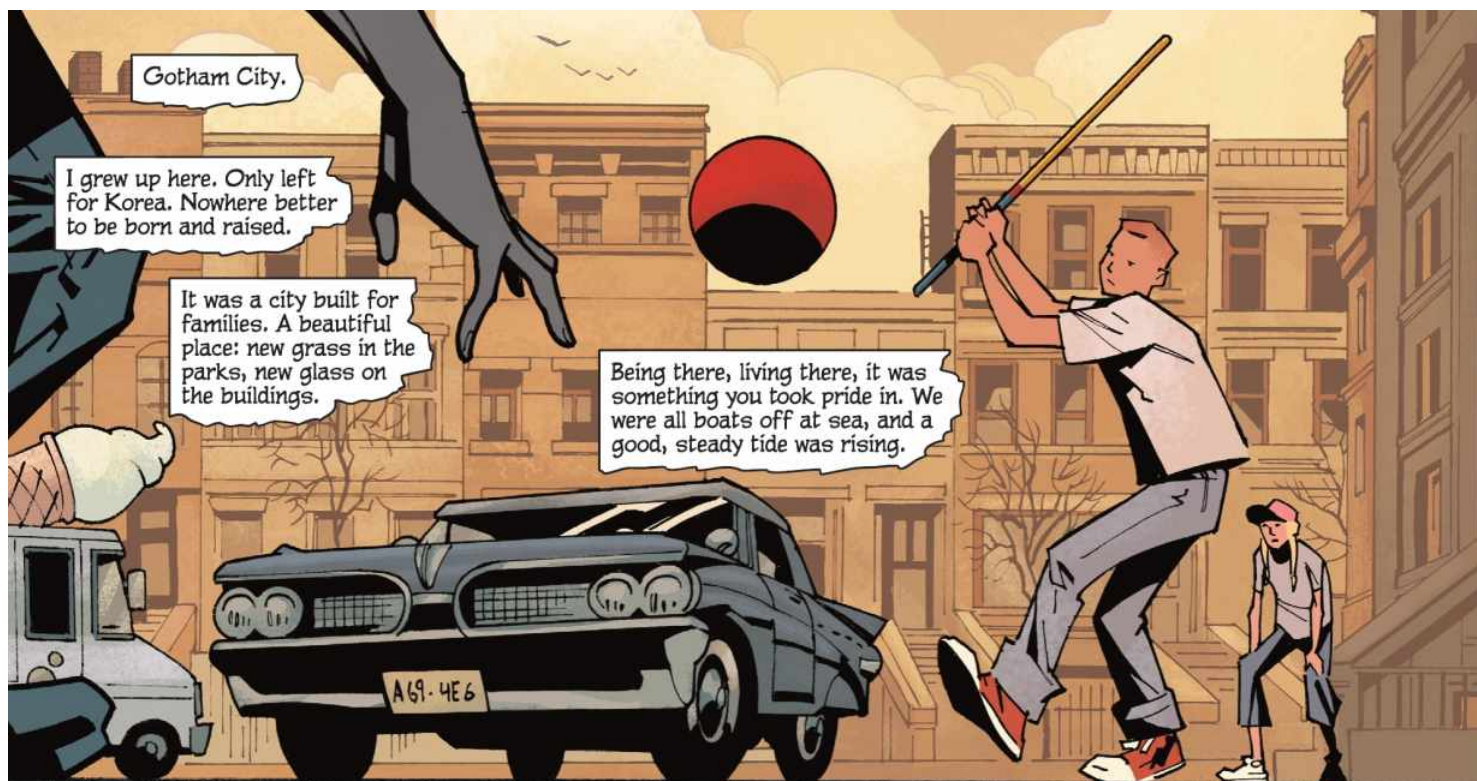


Still.

Like I
said.

It wasn't quite
lunch yet.

And I had a
little time.





I arrived on the estate at about 12:30.

There were guards at the gate. I flashed my P.I. badge and told them I had something for Mr. Wayne.

They discussed, made some calls, let me through.

Elegant place, Wayne Manor. Nothing else like it. Hasn't changed much since those days, but it looked better back then.

It didn't look like some remnant of the past. It just looked nice and new.



By the time I got to the door, it was already opening.





CARTER, SLAM BRADLEY.
SLAM BRADLEY,
CARTER.

DON'T KNOW
IF YOU HEARD, I'M
PRIVATE SECURITY
NOW. FOR THE WAYNES.
MR. CARTER'S MY
PARTNER IN THE
VENTURE.

SLAM HERE
USED TO BE A COP.
LONG TIME AGO. HAD
A DESK RIGHT NEXT
TO MINE.



BUT I
SHOULD LET
YOU KNOW, MY
FRIENDS CALL
ME SAM. MY EX-
WIVES CALL ME
BRADLEY.



ONLY
IDIOTS
LOOKING FOR
BEATINGS
CALL ME
SLAM.



TAKES YOU
RIGHT BACK TO
THE GOOD OLD
DAYS.

DOESN'T
IT, SLAM?



I heard her
before I saw
her.

EXCUSE
ME?

WHAT
EXACTLY IS
GOING ON
HERE?

Which was probably the safest way to meet
Constance Wayne, the lady of the house.

I'M SORRY,
MRS. WAYNE,
THIS IS AN OLD
COLLEAGUE.

WE'RE, UH,
CURRENTLY IN
THE PROCESS
OF--

MRS. WAYNE,
I HAVE A LETTER
I'M TRYING TO
DELIVER.

THEN
I'LL BE
RIGHT OUT
OF YOUR
HAIR.

Someone like that, with
grace like that, with
beauty like that...

Well, on a bright and
lovely day, it's best not
to start with staring
into the sun.

WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?





PLEASE.

DESCRIBE
THIS...
LETTER.

I DIDN'T OPEN IT.
IT'S NOT MINE. IT'S
YOURS. A WOMAN
CAME INTO MY OFFICE
AND ASKED ME TO
DELIVER IT.

I DON'T
KNOW HER.
SHE CAME AND
WENT. PAID ME
A HUNDRED
CLAMS.

IT'S JUST
A WHITE ENVELOPE.
SAYS "MASTER WAYNE"
ON THE OUTSIDE.



THAT'S
IT.



MR.
LODER.

PLEASE.



MY
APOLOGIES.
WHAT DID YOU
SAY YOUR
NAME WAS,
SIR?



SAMUEL
BRADLEY,
MA'AM.

I'M A
LICENSED AND
BONDED PRIVATE
INVESTIGATOR
HERE IN GOTHAM
CITY.

I, UHM,
USED TO WORK
WITH MR. LODER
FOR THE
GCPD.



VERY GOOD. WELL, I AM
CONSTANCE WAYNE,
AND THIS IS MY HOME.

YOU WILL
FOLLOW ME
UPSTAIRS, MR.
BRADLEY.

WE HAVE
BEEN WAITING
FOR YOU.



They took me up a fancy staircase and led me into a fancy sitting room.

They left, and I waited there alone for a half hour.

Maybe more.

And then.



YOU HAVE THE LETTER?



MR. WAYNE, I'M SAMUEL BRADLEY, A--



YES, YES, GIVE IT HERE.



RICHARD, PERHAPS WE SHOULD--

NO.



IT HAS THE MARK. AND SOME INSTRUCTIONS.

THEY SAY HELEN IS UNHARMED.

Richard dropped the letter and stared at me for a good long while.

I'd been reading about him in the papers for the last forty years. People in Gotham followed the Wayne family like others followed royalty.

We were about the same age, and I'd grown up knowing every step he took. Looking at him now, felt like I was looking at my whole life.

Finally, without a word, he just turned away. Then he and his wife left the room.



And Carter and Loder took their place.

UP
ON YOUR
FEET.

WE GOT
TO ASK YOU
SOME QUESTIONS
AND WE AIN'T
GOING TO DO
IT HERE.



WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
HERE?

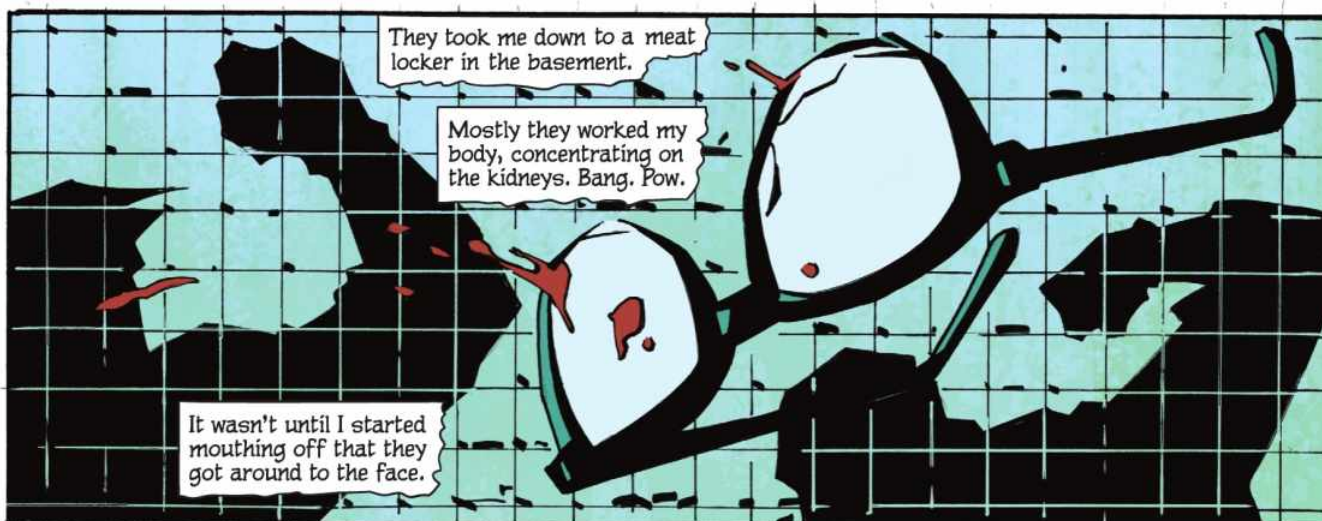


WELL, YOU KNOW HOW
IT IS, SLAM.

MRS. WAYNE
KEEPS A TIGHT
HOUSE.

SHE DOESN'T
WANT STAINS ON
HER CARPET.





They took me down to a meat locker in the basement.

Mostly they worked my body, concentrating on the kidneys. Bang. Pow.

It wasn't until I started mouthing off that they got around to the face.



I didn't tell about Johnny Boy and the tail.

OWH.

SHE... CAME AND WENT...

It was the same question over and over.

"How'd you get the letter?"

I wasn't eager to bring the old man into this mess. Wasn't sure his kidneys could take what mine had.



Besides, not giving these fellows something felt like spitting in their faces.

And as I passed out, that pleasant thought gave me something warm to bring with me into the cold black.

OWH...





"FROM THE DOORWAY
WE COULD TELL THE
WINDOW WAS OPEN.

"IT HAD BEEN A COOL
NIGHT, AND MISS LAKE
AND I WERE SURE WE
HAD LEFT IT CLOSED.



"THE CRIB WAS
UNDISTURBED,
JUST THE SAME AS
IT HAD BEEN THE
NIGHT BEFORE.

"YOU COULD STILL
SEE HELEN'S IMPRINT
ON THE MATTRESS
AND PILLOW.

"BUT HER FAVORITE
BLANKET--IT HAD
AN OWL ON IT--WAS
ALSO MISSING.



"AND ON THE FLOOR
UNDER THE OPEN
WINDOW WAS A
WHITE ENVELOPE.

"WHICH I'M SURE
YOU'D RECOGNIZE,
MR. BRADLEY."



I SEE.

DO YOU
MIND?



NOT AT
ALL. BUT
DON'T MAKE IT
A HABIT IN
OUR HOME.

MR. WAYNE
HAS A REVULSION
TO TOBACCO. HE
LIKES EVERYTHING
PRISTINE.
VIRGINAL.

SO BE
CAREFUL IS ALL.
I WOULDN'T WANT
YOU TO GET IN
TROUBLE.



"ONLY AFTER LODER
ARRIVED DID WE OPEN
THE ENVELOPE FROM
THE NURSERY."



"IT WAS
QUITE THE
SHOCK."

HAVE 100,000 DOLLARS
TO PAY FOR CHILD. CHILD
IS SAFE BUT WON'T BE
SAFE IF YOU DON'T PAY.
DON'T YOU TELL ANYONE.
DON'T TELL POLICE SO SHE
STAYS SAFE. I WANT TO
GIVE CHILD BACK SAFE FOR
THE MONEY. I WRITE HERE
MORE SOON. YOU KNOW IT
IS TRUE BY ME WITH MY
MARK HERE:





AFTER CONSULTING WITH MR. LODER, MR. WAYNE MADE THE DECISION TO FOLLOW THE KIDNAPPER'S INSTRUCTIONS.

WE DID NOT INVOLVE THE POLICE OR THE PRESS. HELEN'S LIFE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN JUSTICE OR...MONEY.

WE HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY.

AND THUS WE HAVE SAT AROUND HERE WAITING. WAITING FOR TWO DAYS. WAITING FOR YOU.

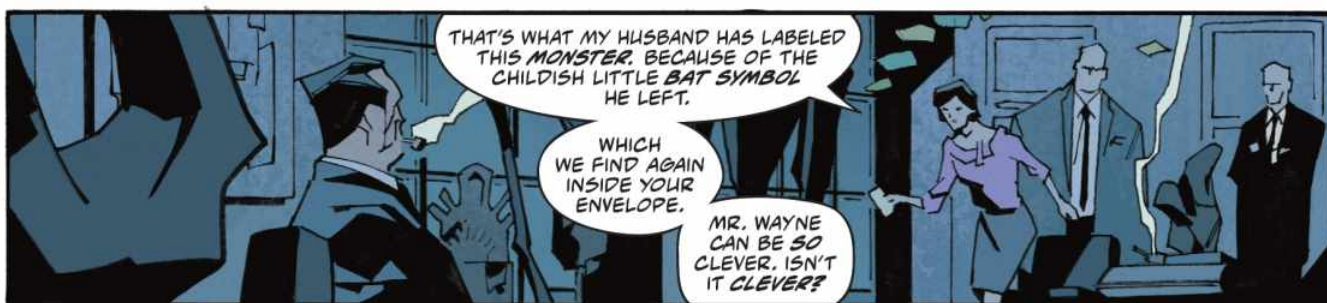


THE BAT-MAN.



EXCUSE ME?

BAT-MAN?



THAT'S WHAT MY HUSBAND HAS LABELED THIS MONSTER. BECAUSE OF THE CHILDISH LITTLE BAT SYMBOL HE LEFT.

WHICH WE FIND AGAIN INSIDE YOUR ENVELOPE.

MR. WAYNE CAN BE SO CLEVER. ISN'T IT CLEVER?



IT'S NOT MINE. I JUST BROUGHT IT TO YOU.

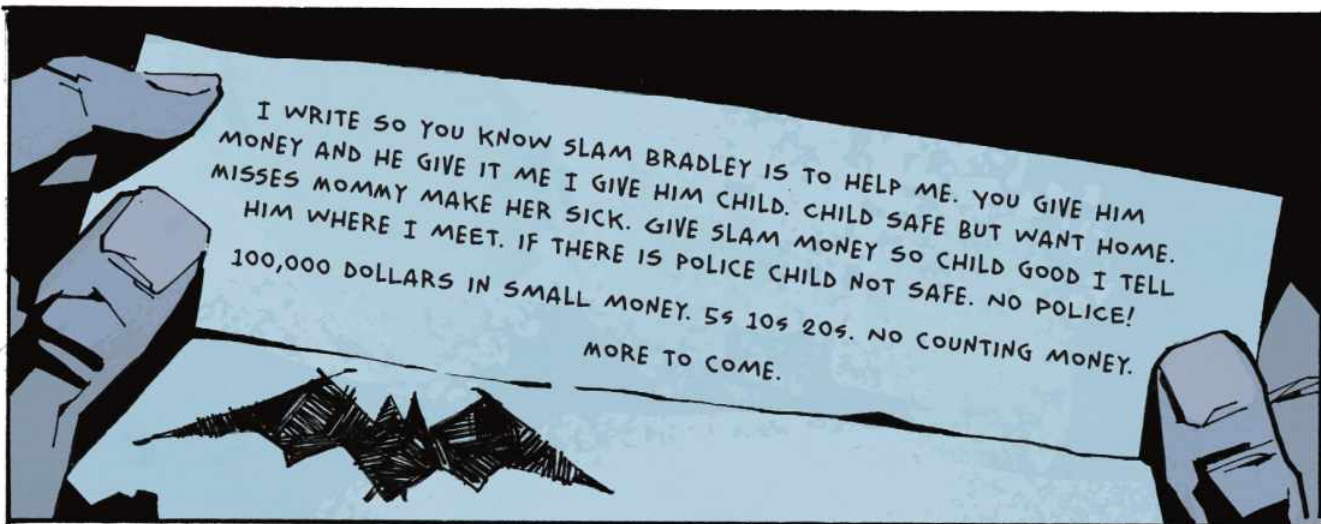
I'M NOT ANY BAT-MAN.



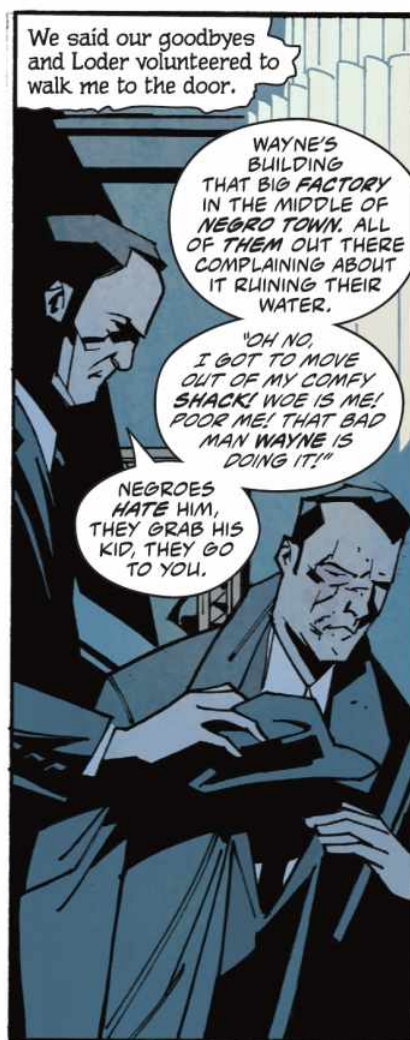
YOU'RE NOT? H.M. WELL...

...WE'LL SEE.

WON'T WE?









By the time I got out, the rain was coming down sloppy and hard.

My stomach ached. My nose needed to be reset. My head was screeching at me.

And I was lodged in the filthy heart of the biggest crime in the history of Gotham City.

I should've had an early lunch.

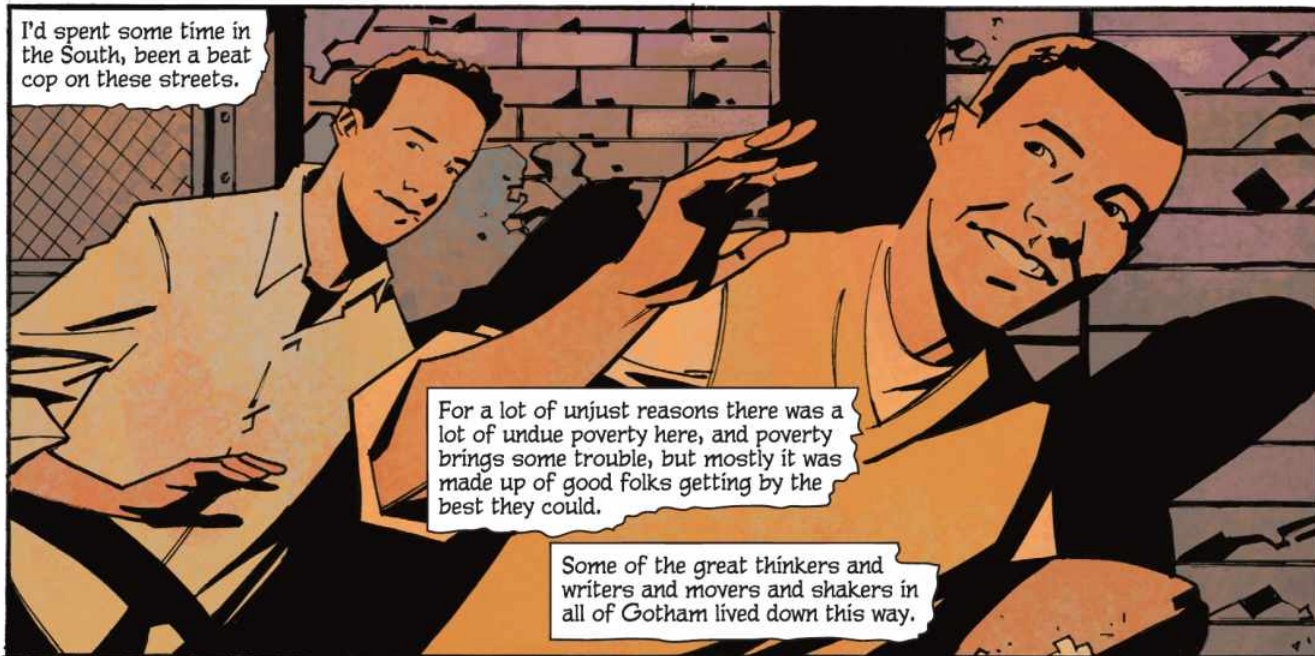




I drove down past the railway into the south side of Gotham.

Like everywhere else in America, it was a pretty segregated city in those days. Didn't matter what the laws on the books said, it was just known.

Some people lived on the North Side, and the other kind of people, they lived in the South.



I'd spent some time in the South, been a beat cop on these streets.

For a lot of unjust reasons there was a lot of undue poverty here, and poverty brings some trouble, but mostly it was made up of good folks getting by the best they could.

Some of the great thinkers and writers and movers and shakers in all of Gotham lived down this way.



People in the North spent a bunch of their time trying to figure out how to fix these neighborhoods, to make them as "safe" and "prosperous" as their own.

People in the South wanted it to be as "safe" and "prosperous" as anywhere else.

But they knew when they used those words they meant something else than what the people in the North meant.

For them it was something besides just *white*.



SITE'S
BEEN CLOSED
ALL DAY DUE TO
THE RAIN.

AT ABOUT SIX,
SOME KIDS WERE
PLAYING DOWN THERE,
USING THE PIT LIKE A
SLIDE. SLID RIGHT INTO
HIM. RAN AWAY
SCREAMING.

ONE OF THEM
TELLS MOM, MOM
CALLS THE PRECINCT,
WE'RE HERE BY
SEVEN.

I LOOK IN
HIS WALLET. JONATHAN
DAWSON. BORN 1891, RIGHT
ON HIS P.I. LICENSE. I CALL IN
THE NUMBER ON THE LICENSE
TO THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE,
THEY SAY HE WORKS
FOR YOU.

SO I'M
CALLING YOUR
OFFICE FOR THE LAST
TWO HOURS. NO ONE
ANSWERS. CALLING
AND CALLING.

YOU
AIN'T BEEN
IN, SLAM.

SO WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN?



OUT.

It was on the note. And Mrs. Wayne made sure to make it clear.

HE GOT SHOT WITH A .45--GUN'S STILL DOWN THERE. I CALLED THAT IN TOO. REGISTERED TO A MR. SAMUEL BRADLEY.

If you talk to the cops, the girl's *dead*.

YEAH?

Helen Wayne.
The Princess
of Gotham.

WHY DON'T WE START THIS AGAIN AND MAKE IT *NICE* SO IT DOESN'T GET REAL MEAN.

Her life was now in my hands.

And I suppose, in the end, mine was now in hers.

**COMING SOON TO
THE SOUTH SIDE!**



THE WAYNE INDUSTRIAL REFINERY! THE FUTURE OF GOTHAM!

YOUR PARTNER JUST TURNED UP DEAD IN NEGRO TOWN, SHOT WITH YOUR GUN.

WHERE YOU BEEN ALL DAY, SLAM?



YOU
SHOULDN'T.
IT'LL KILL
YOU.

HM. "IT'LL
KILL YOU."
YOU SOUND JUST
LIKE YOUR
GRANDPA.

I THINK
MAYBE IT'S A
TAD TOO LATE
FOR THAT
WORRY.



I DIDN'T KNOW HIM. OR HER. RICHARD
AND CONSTANCE WERE JUST PAINT
IN A PICTURE. GONE BEFORE
I WAS BORN.



THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH YOU
PEOPLE TODAY. YOU DON'T
LOOK BACK.

ALL OF
YOU THINK ALL
OF EVERYTHING
CAME INTO BEING
THE MOMENT
YOU DID.

YOU MAKE
YOUR OWN FATE
AND BUILD YOUR
OWN WORLD. AREN'T
YOU JUST SO VERY
SPECIAL?



BUT TRUTH OF IT IS, REASON I GOT
YOU HERE, REASON I GOT TO GET
THESE DAMN SECRETS OUT
BEFORE I GO...

...GOTHAM
FELL BEFORE
YOU EVER GOT
HERE.

EVERYTHING
YOU'VE DONE IN THIS CITY--
TO THIS CITY--EVERYTHING
WAS SET IN STONE LONG BEFORE
THAT DOCTOR WHIPPED
YOUR PRETTY BARE
BOTTOM.



YOU THINK
YOU KNOW GOTHAM?
YOU THINK YOU KNOW
WHY YOU DO WHAT
YOU DO?

YOU THINK
YOU EVEN KNOW WHO
YOU ARE?

HELL,
SON, UNTIL YOU
KNOW WHAT I
KNOW...

...YOU
DON'T KNOW
A DAMN
THING.

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BLACK ADAM

IN THEATERS OCTOBER 21



MEET DC'S
MOST POWERFUL
ANTIHERO IN THESE
CLASSIC COMICS
STORIES!

DC NATION INTERVIEW

WITH DIRECTOR
JAUME COLLET-SERRA



BLACK ADAM



Did you have any prior knowledge of Black Adam when you started the project?

I'd obviously known Dwayne had been wanting the role for a long time. Once I was brought on, I did a deep dive in the comic books and was surprised to find such a wealth of excitement.

How did you tackle Black Adam's questionable moral code in the film?

I think that's one of the interesting parts of our film. It thematically talks about what makes a hero and who has the right to define what justice is. Black Adam was born 5,000 years ago, when things were very different, and does things his way for what he believes is right. I wouldn't say that Black Adam's moral code is questionable, I would say that it's not contemporary.

What was it like bringing the Justice Society to the screen?

We have Doctor Fate, Hawkman, Cyclone, and Atom Smasher. Hawkman and Doctor Fate are the senior members of the team. For Doctor Fate, he's almost godlike, so to have Pierce Brosnan, who is so warm and sensitive, made it the perfect combination.

Hawkman has a very strict sense of morality and justice. He's a bit of a scientist and a bit of a gladiator. Atom Smasher is a little bit of the new kid on the block. He's someone who's very charming, but also isn't quite sure if he's on the right side. Finally, we have Cyclone, who comes from a lineage of heroes and has been imbued with nanotechnology.

How was it working with Dwayne Johnson?

He's great, and after doing two movies together we have a really good relationship and a mutual respect toward each other. We both want the same thing and that's to make fans happy. I think that Dwayne has really stepped up and delivered an incredible performance. He's worked very hard to make this movie special, and I think fans are going to recognize that.



IN THEATERS BEGINNING OCTOBER 21!

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

